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to essential facts touching party development which permits the author to dismiss the convention system with eighteen lines. The change from caucus to convention after Jackson's time is said to have been "radical and important." The "action of conventions was generally accepted as having the binding force of statute law," being henceforth "received with as ready acceptance, within their limits, as the Thirty-nine Articles or the Westminster Catechism. Loyalty to party has been demanded, as but slightly, if at all, less obligatory than allegiance to the government." Yet one does not find the explanation of the origin of the convention.

The book teems with inaccuracies of statement and inference which raise suspicions as to the author's familiarity with even the better secondary histories. For instance, the reasons for the "Bank Veto" are said to have been that Jackson was "adversely convinced upon *all* points," viz., "the solvency of the bank, as well as of its prudent and honest management; and this without reference to the validity of its charter." (P. 49.) Later (p. 55) appears the statement that the great Democratic apostle was zealous in upholding a protective tariff. The evidence produced was "the mighty oath," by which the threat to hang Calhoun was uttered. The great Compromise of 1833 is dismissed with barely three lines. The depression of 1837 is described as an "artificial panic;" the depression of 1857 is not mentioned; the People's Party is said to be a combination of the Greenback and Labor parties, with no apparent cause for existence, etc.

As a whole the work is rather a chronological table than a history. It certainly does not consider adequately the conditions attending the formation and development of the party system in the United States. The workmanship is hasty and deficient both in form and in analysis. The student of political science needs information in regard to the causes of the party system, the forces which have directed its growth and the machinery by which its functions are exercised. Such information is not contained in the book under review which adds little or nothing to statements formerly published. On the contrary, because of the lack of an adequate arrangement, some unreasonable prejudices are accentuated.

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*Die Wohnungsnot und Wohnungsreform in England.* By DR. FELIX VON OPPENHEIMER. Pp. viii, 167. Price, 4 m. Leipzig: Duncker und Humblot, 1900.

The movement for the improvement of the housing conditions of the poor has continued almost twenty years in Germany, and consid-

erable has been accomplished there in the way of legislation, the construction of improved tenements, and education. During this time Austria has remained almost unaffected by the agitation at her side, although her capital city has time and again been shown to harbor frightful conditions. The publication, by an official in Vienna, of a description of English experience in reforming the domiciliary conditions of that country, seems to betoken the beginning of an awakened and enlightened interest in this question. Like so many of his fellow countrymen Dr. Oppenheimer has turned to England as the pioneer in the settlement of this momentous problem.

Although a number of books on the same subject have already been published in German this one finds its justification, if such is needed, in that it brings the story of England's experience down to date. But certainly the importance of the subject is more than enough to justify all such publications. Lord Shaftesbury, the greatest of English reformers in this field, after half a century of effort for social betterment, said: "I am certain that I speak the truth, and a truth which can be confirmed by the testimony of all . . . who are conversant with the working class, that until their domiciliary conditions are Christianized (I can use no less forcible term) all hope of moral or social improvement is utterly in vain." Bad housing conditions affect all phases of the social problem.

After stating briefly the causes of the *Wohnungsnot*, which causes he conceives to be primarily the English lease-system and the tearing down of old houses either for railway construction or municipal improvements, Dr. Oppenheimer turns to a consideration of the attempts at reform. The history of legislation specifically directed against domiciliary evils is briefly sketched down to the London Government Act of 1899. The practical attempts at reform made by the various English municipalities are also described. Model tenements and such educational movements as Miss Octavia Hill's plan of rent collecting are given a chapter, while another is devoted to municipal lodgings. Municipal lodgings are found to be undesirable on the whole; in this respect the experience of the English municipalities has not differed from that of some of our American cities.

The measures described by the author in the first part of the book are calculated in the main to improve existing dwellings. They are clearly insufficient. The more serious evils can be met only by increasing the number of tenements or decreasing the number of tenement-house dwellers. This latter is the ideal of Dr. Oppenheimer, as it is of nearly all social reformers. The author accordingly treats of "Decentralization and the Railways" in the last chapter of his book, and advocates cheap rapid transit as the best solution. He, however,

offers no further suggestions or remedies of his own. In fact, the book is throughout without originality. While it forms a careful and intelligent sketch of English legislative experience in dealing with the housing problem, it contains nothing new. Nor does it appear from the volume that the author ever saw the inside of one of the tenements that are the subject of his discussions. The question is viewed wholly from the administrative and bureaucratic standpoint. The chief merit of the book lies in the fact that it gives the reader a concise, connected account of all English legislation down to date. But its purpose—that of arousing a careless people to an intelligent interest in improved housing—must excuse any shortcomings in the book itself.

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*Elementary Physical Geography.* By JACQUES W. REDWAY. Pp. vi, 383. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1900.

*Taschen Atlas.* By HERMANN HABENICHT. Pp. 68. Price, M. 2.40. Gotha: Justus Perthes, 1899.

*Reader in Physical Geography.* By RICHARD E. DODGE. Pp. ix, 237. Price, 70 cents. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1900.

Mr. Redway's book is most disappointing. It enters the field against modern texts, written by men who have helped to establish the new science of Physiography, and whose work in elementary textbooks is constructive and thorough. The author has not been in this goodly company, and does not realize the significance of the revolution which has put the old static geography forever on the shelf. He has evidently done some reading in the new work, but his notions are hazy, and one is impressed at every turn with the fact that here is a geographer out of the old school of our fathers, attempting to adapt himself to the new teaching and making a lamentable failure of it. There are blunders by scores, in fact or by implication, and the list is increased in the diagrams and illustrations. The whole treatment of the River Valley is a pitiful failure. Mr. Redway's discerning friends can only regret that this volume was ever allowed to appear in print.

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